

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 is an independent claim and the remaining claims depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,798) in view of Applicant's Prior Art (APA).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushijima and the APA, further in view of Hsieh (U.S. Patent No. 4,998,344).

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushijima and the APA, further in view of Swengel, Sr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,656,092).

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, compressing the outer peripheral portion of the connecting member inwardly so as to caulk an inserted portion of the electric wire *uniformly over a whole periphery thereof*.

With reference to a non-limiting embodiment, the specification of the present application teaches that when a connecting cap 10 (connecting member) is compressed uniformly, it can have a uniform diameter over the entire length even if the cap is uneven.¹ Furthermore, the present application teaches that uniform compression causes the conductor portion of the wire to be held in intimate contact with the inner peripheral surface of the insertion hole in the connecting member. Additionally, uniform compressing increases the area of contact between

¹ See Original Specification at page 13, lines 6-17.

the conductor portion and the connecting member, so that the fixing force increases, and the reliability of the electrical contact is enhanced.²

In contrast to the claimed invention, Ushijima does not teach compressing the outer peripheral portion of the alleged connecting member so as to caulk an inserted portion of the electric wire uniformly. Rather, any caulking in Ushijima *would not be uniform*. For example, the Examiner relies on Ushijima FIG. 3 and column 5, lines 48-55 as allegedly teaching the claimed compression. However, as shown in FIG. 3, *the caulking is non-uniform*. Particularly, the caulking would appear to be greater at the top portion where the ends of the caulking portion 4 are turned inwards. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ushijima does not teach *uniformity* as claimed.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 4, 7 and 8

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 7 and 8 are allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

Claim 2

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1 and because Hsieh, which the Examiner asserts as showing a connecting member with a first hole portion and a second hole portion, does not cure the deficiencies in Ushijima and the APA discussed above.

² See Original Specification at page 5, lines 13-22.

Claims 3 and 6

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 6 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1 and because Swengel, Sr., which the Examiner asserts as showing a connecting member compressed and shaped by rotary swagging, does not cure the deficiencies in Ushijima and the APA discussed above.

New Claims

Applicants have added new dependent claims 9-11 for a more varied scope of protection. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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